

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1860.

THE HOUSE OF NOTIES has under discussion a change to the present auction law, which restricts the number of bidders to three or four (practically two only for Honolulu) and imposes a heavy tax on the value of all sales. The changes proposed by Mr. Chas. R. Bishop, are as follows:

1st.—Throwing the auction business open to all, by repealing the clause now existing to it.

2d.—Reducing the limit in the number of bidders issued, now restricted to three.

3d.—Making the license fee \$600 per annum, and 1 per cent. on all sales as the Minister may choose, on all sales effected.

The first two changes are evidently an improvement on the present law; but the third is a double tax, first on the auctioneers, second on the importers, as it still leaves the government tax on the value of the goods. The present law gives the auctioneers no tax on their commissions, leaving the auctioneers to impose the same tax wholly on the owners of the property sold. We very much question whether by any of the changes under proposed, the government will gain more than a trifling increase over that derived under the old law, requiring a license fee of \$600.

4th.—That the largest possible revenue to the government would be obtained by keeping out "cheap Johns," and at the same time was as favorable to the owners of goods of any law that could be devised.

We expressed these same views before the change was made, and we still believe they are held by a majority of the business community.

Since our last issue, we have had a number of arrivals of merchandise, with full cargoes—all apparently hurried in to anticipate the expiration of the present tariff, which terminates with this week. The arrivals have been:

1—Ship *Mercantile*, from Hilo, in ballast.2—Ship *Frances Palmer*, San Francisco, with cargo of lumber.3—Ship *Red Rover*, San Francisco, in ballast.4—Ship *California*, San Francisco, with cargo of lumber.5—Ship *Kamehameha II*, from Hilo, with sugar, hides, &c.6—Ship *Samuel Robertson*, from Hilo, with general cargo.The cargo of his latter vessel includes the general variety of merchandise. She has, however, 100 tons less of coal for the steamer *Kaiulani*, now hourly loaded for.The departures have been the brigantine *Manuela*, with a small cargo of sugar, for Puget Sound, and the clipper ship *Red Rover*, San Francisco, with the usual stock of supplies and water, and bound for Laysan. She also takes down new and heavy moccins to be laid at the wharf.The *Comet* sail on Saturday for San Francisco. She has obtained a fair cargo of our island produce, though our sugar and molasses evidently tend towards the Victoria market.

A large party of English tourists took passage on Tuesday at the rooms of A. E. Everett. The sale was well-attended, but the demand for goods was slight, and the price by no means what they should have been. The stock here appears to be fairly equal to the wants of trade, and no special demand for new imports is to be expected in the fall season.

We quote below prices at the sale:

White sheeting, 25¢ per sq. ft. 15¢.

100 lbs fine thread, assorted, 60¢ to \$1 P. lb.

100 lbs white service cotton, 60¢ to 65¢.

Silk—white, 25¢ to 35¢.

Silk—white, 25¢ to 35¢.

Silk—blue, 35¢ to 45¢.

Silk—blue, 35¢ to 45¢.